

January 5, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - On Monday, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) joined congressional colleagues U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY-08) and U.S. Rep. Eric Massa (NY-29) and local elected officials on the steps of City Hall in New York City to discuss natural gas drilling issues across New York State.

"While natural gas may arguably be New York State's second greatest natural resource, there is little doubt that water is our greatest natural resource," **Arcuri said**. "It is critical to realize that today we live on a planet that suffers from deforestation and water shortages and we need to protect our water at all cost. Some drilling companies have promised New York State jobs, an improved economy and a large windfall from natural gas drilling; as yet we have seen none. Other states that have rushed ahead with drilling have experienced dangerous and potentially deadly accidents, spills and contamination. We must pursue a cautious and reasoned approach when it comes to the safety of our water supply, which every New York State resident depends on."

Arcuri has held several meetings with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) officials and constituents from across the 24th Congressional District regarding the issue of natural gas exploration in Upstate New York. Monday's event at New York City Hall highlighted the fact that this issue will have an impact on Upstate and Downstate New York.

Arcuri has raised concerns over the ability for natural gas drilling contractors to drill safely without negatively impacting the local water supply. There have been reports in Upstate New York recently that some homes have seen contaminants enter their water possibly due to natural gas drilling projects that have taken place at close proximity to these homes. Arcuri has pledged to work with the DEC to impose strict safety requirements on any drilling project in New York State.

###